

Mauritius – Country (Ages 13-15)

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Mauritius - Country GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Mauritius - Country could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Mauritius - Country GYTS was a school-based survey of students in Form II, III, and IV conducted in 2003.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for Mauritius - Country. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 95.8%, the class response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 92.7%, and the overall response rate was 88.9%. A total of 646 students aged 13-15 participated in the Mauritius - Country GYTS.

Prevalence

29.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 38.9%, Girl = 22.2%)
13.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 19.8%, Girl = 7.7%)
7.7% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

36.0% think boys and 13.9% think girls who smoke have more friends
14.1% think boys and 7.2% think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

23.0% usually smoke at home
50.9% buy cigarettes in a store
61.3% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Exposure to Secondhand Smoke (SHS)

42.0% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
68.2% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
61.8% think smoking should be banned from public places
58.9% think smoke from others is harmful to them
42.7% have one or more parents who smoke
10.2% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

59.5% want to stop smoking
59.2% tried to stop smoking during the past year
75.3% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

70.3% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days
40.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days
9.3% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

51.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
27.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
50.5% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Over one-quarter of the students has ever smoked a cigarette; 13.2% currently smoke cigarettes.
- SHS exposure is high – over 2 in 5 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; close to 7 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; more than 4 in 10 have one or more parents who smoke.
- Over half the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- More than 3 in 5 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Six in 10 students who currently smoke indicated that they want to stop smoking now.
- Seven in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; while 2 in 5 students saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines in the past 30 days.